



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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2 MARCH 1966

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1. Vietnam

The Chinese Communists have sent letters to a number of neutral nations warning once again against the "perfidious schemes" of the US in respect to Vietnam and reiterating Peking's opposition to a negotiated settlement except on Communist terms. Egypt, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway seem to have received such letters, and it is likely that other neutrals have been similarly cautioned.

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2. Communist China

[redacted] Chou En-lai will visit Rumania in "mid-March," and there are indications he may also go to Albania. The Chinese may hope to demonstrate that they are not entirely isolated in the Soviet-led bloc, and the Rumanians could use the visit to demonstrate their neutrality in the Sino-Soviet hassle.

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The reported timing of the trip would permit Chou to show up in Moscow for the Soviet party congress scheduled to begin on 29 March. He led the Chinese delegation to the last congress in 1961--but stomped out when the Soviets attacked Albania.

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3. Indonesia

Overt resistance to Sukarno remains limited, with even the student demonstrations trailing off into slogan-painting on walls and cars. Alleged army intentions to move against Subandrio--and Sukarno, if necessary--appear at present to be brave talk rather than precise plans.

4. Kashmir

Indian and Pakistani ministers are discussing the Kashmir problem in Rawalpindi this week, in further implementation of the January Tashkent agreement. Both sides will air their positions for public consumption, but little or no progress is likely toward resolving the basic dispute. Last week, however, both countries did complete withdrawing their forces to positions held before the September fighting.

5. Soviet Union

Cosmos 110 with its two dogs will probably stay in orbit until after 20 March, when daylight recovery in the usual area of the USSR will be possible. The Soviets are probably collecting data on the effects of prolonged radiation, weightlessness, and other potential dangers to astronauts, in line with their habitual careful attention to the biomedical aspects of manned space flights.

6. Belgium

The King's formateur today gave up attempts to form a government. New elections are increasingly likely, since the present political leaders have been able to agree on an approach to only a few of the country's economic, social, and ethnic problems. Foreign Minister Spaak, without whom Belgian foreign policy tends to stagnate, could be a casualty of the new elections.

7. United Kingdom

London is giving the moderate government of British Guiana--which will take over after independence on 26 May--a million pounds for budget support. This gift should mute squabbles in Burnham's cabinet over fiscal matters, and London probably hopes its largesse will get it off the hook for future donations.

8. Bolivia

Former co-president Barrientos is scheduled to return to Bolivia Friday, exactly two months after his abrupt resignation. The political pot will begin to boil again, in anticipation of national elections in July. So far, Barrientos is the only candidate.

Barrientos' insistence on keeping his position as commander in chief of the armed forces--whose continued unity is the key to stability in Bolivia--is causing concern among high-ranking officers. Some military are said to be working to prevent his candidacy and cancel the elections.

9. Guatemala

It looks as if none of the three presidential candidates will win an absolute majority in Sunday's elections, leaving the choice to the new national assembly which convenes on 5 May. The campaign has given little cause for optimism that any of the parties can solve the country's social and economic problems. There is a distinct chance that the voting will precipitate violence which Communist terrorists appear ready to exploit.

10. Ghana

The new regime continues to take steps to demonstrate its moderate image. It is rounding up exiles whom Nkrumah had permitted to use Ghana as a base for subversion against other African countries, and General Ankrah has underscored his government's intention to follow sound economic policies. The US Embassy notes that the departure of Communist technicians has left a large vacuum.

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News of Nkrumah's arrival in Conakry today is likely to have repercussions within Ghana, where the populace is still jumpy and susceptible to rumor.

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